3/27/71

Dear Bob,

I've just returned from the second trip to NYV and the second battle, this one not easy until it was underway and in other ways (having to do with editing, etc) afterward. Physically, this is now hard on me. But I think the results are worthwhile. However, this apology is to explain why I'll not be long on details and why I ask a question.

Please try and give me a list of the present Memphis judges and indicate which is a former prosecutor. I understood that only one, a former public "defender", was not a former prosecutor, and I seem to recall you or a reporter told me this. It can be important and get us another exposure to a large audience. What I did last week reached an estimated 200-300,000 adults. With promotions, this week's should reach many more. I'll have a better idea after I get to be, when I'll start getting calls after the show is off the air.

To return to last week's, I learned,from the one man in the world who knows, when Foreman learned he was going to face me. He was being made up when the make-up man just casually mentioned it. He had made me up for two of the most dramatic confrontations even on TV and remembers me well. I now believe what Foreman told a reporter who asked him, that he did not know I was going to be on that show. At the moment the make-up man said I'd be on the show, the Broken Wind from Texas broke and ran. Since the verbal threat he made on the run, he sent a telegraphed threat and a longer one by mail. I believe he has invented a new libel, the unspoken on. The station finally got a bit honest when I started leaning on them about it early this week, after being told they had promised to air the side other than mine-which is Foreman's. They were not at all afraid of any real libel. They were afraid of the cost of defending a spurious suit. Foreman spelled it out: he knew I had no money; he didn't know if my publishers did; but he sure as hell knows Metromedia does. Well, I knew before they told me that Dwyer and Huie were to appear. Finally they acknowledged that Dwyer would. Then, when after two days of long-distance scrapping, their lawyers agreed for me to be on the show, they were not about to make the same legal mistake (great showmanship, since they know me, but poor law), and they got Dwyer's agreement (he didn't know me, but he sure as hell does now) and his promise he'd put me in my place, whatever he regards that to be. From Huie, who seems to have heard things or to have read my book (Dwyer could not have), they got an agreement subject to two conditions: he'd walk off during the spot held for insertion of a commercial and after the taping resumed, it would be announced that he had refused to face me only because I am an "irresponsible writer". Well, I loved that one, believe me. At the station Wednesday night (and I'd long ago learned it is better to be an early worm so you can see the bird), while I was being held away from where there would be any chance of meeting Huie and Dwyer before the show - and I did, sincerely, cooperate, for I wanted so much for that best of all possible introductions- there was a slipup and somebody took them and their party (Mrs. Dwyer will have as long a memory as her husband, as will Mrs. Huie-they expected a picnic) to the room in which they were supposed to be hiding me. They'd taken me there. I'd left my attache case and coat there and gone to the corner for a slight snack, having eaten nothing all day. When I returned and opened the door, I heard voices, saw nobody I knew, and backed out. Somebody said "come on in". I did. Huie recognized me and I him. He told me he was glad to meet me. I told him "I've heard otherwise". He said, "that is only on camera". He introduced me to Dwyer, their wives and Gerold Frank (who must now be the sickest literary man in the world). One had a daughter, I think Dwyer. I wanted to leave and before we could get to talking, a member of the staff blundered in and I was asked to go see sombeody who didn't exist.

Why I don't know, but Huie changed his mind. My only regret is that he diluted what I did to Dwyer. If I did enough, it is much less than I could have. Huie talked much and in a manner that was worse for him than I could have been. Self-destruction, no less. The audience openly jeered at him and he lost his cool and called us all, including me, kluxers. Ray is guilty because a) he said so and b) Huie is God and knows.

So, know you know, and you know from the whore's mouth, you ain't no preacher, son, you-alls a kluxer!

When I had the mike, I kept throwing the record to Dwyer, saying this or that is what it says, it is the record youm made, this is what you did that is crooked, this is what tou shouldn't do that you should, and if you doubt me, I'll give it to you right now. I did that with the windowsill, of which you may recall, I have both a piece and pictures. Because I didn't have to use them, I saved them for the first time it rains on camera. (By the way, the one picture I took of that windowsill is the one that didn t turn out with that camera. I'd appreciate it much if you could slip over there and get a snapshot for me, windowsill ako alone, for the print I bought from a new service will cost $75.00 for one-time use on TV.) Fihally, Dwyer made the mistake I anticipated, and, fortunately, too, because I had that part marked, found it right away without fumbling through 100 pages of transcript. He talked about the "scientific tests" Francisco had made. This gave me a chance to call something else, he description of the wound that eliminates the major one the "introduction" to the question on the tests, and then I read the q and a that redefines science as look and tests as guessing. With Dwyer having just said that King was standing up, can you imagine the effect that had on the live audience, in the studio? (It hasn't been aired as of this writing.) That took the wind out of Dwuer, I think 100%, except what he saved for a sanctimonious close that ,ade him even more ridiculous when we were all given a minute.

Of course, they didn't keep their word to me, which was that I'd have half as much time as the others without interruption. Or, as much as either Huie or Dwyer to both answer what they had said and say what I wanted to. But in terms of drama and mass impact, this gangup was better. It didn't stay a gangup for long. When I had to shout them both donw to be heard, I did, and loud and successfully. This really get to Huie and he really blew himself. Dwyer, ever the Southern gentleman, the crook, asked that the point at which he pointed his finger at me be edited out. He asked the wrong guy, the moderator. At least I hope the director doesn't do it, for that is what turned me on him, and if they edit him out, what I did to him goes with it.

However, I've asked the station for both unedited and edited tapes. My reason is for quality. We'll have them anyway. We have the unedited one now. One of my boys was there! He is a good boy, too. Comes to vist me and all that, and learnes qyick. As soon as he saw Uptight Gerold Frank come over after the show, he did, and can confirm what I will say Frank told me and has the end on tape. Too bad we're so poor and have to improvise. He wore his ~~mmy~~ old ~~jx~~ jacket all through the whole two hours, the same one in which he later went out into the cold. And those lights are hot. He looked kinda hippie, which he isn't, so he passed off okay. He had his tape recorder under the jacket and the mike down his sleeve which is not the best place. But it worked enough! We laready have both of the last show, even though I do not have the promised aired one from the station yet and the lawyers haven t decided on the taped, before-editing one. Fact is, I laready have a dub to give to Bud for Ryan (maybe through you) where I think some of what Hanes said can be used in Cinn.

So, friend, when next you see your great judge, ask him how he found it in the big city, and sympathize with him that he was there during a heat wave (nights 20 degrees).

If anything appeared in the papers there on what Ray said (I was on the train when CBS carried it) or any word you get on this, please let me have every bit. This is the second time that happened right after avisit from Jerry. The first time I know Stoner did it, because Stoner had told me the same thing, almost word for word, and James had no way of knowing it except from Stoner, whether or not he did tell Jerry to say it, which I doubt... There were, as you might guess, a couple of people in the audience who were not strangers to me, and they knew what to ask. One asked Dwyer about the number of judges who had been p prosecutors if I hadn't done it, and I know one asked about Beasley. Dwyer's response was to the effect that Beasley was a greag judge and just about none had been prosecutors. I think that were I to send a list, we'd get the whole thing aired again. It needn't have any identification of my source, just so I know it is accurate. And I'm to do another show there, another program, that is, and can use it then. Same station, so we can get the tape and play Dwyer back if they are willing. Best regards and good cheer. Get me some debates there, huh?